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making Bismarck responsible for the "odious intrigue" of the Hohenzollern candidacy. It was merely a "hypocritical pretext" on the part of the Prussian Foreign Office to declare that the affair was outside of its province, and concerned the King alone as head of the dynasty. Then followed in the summer of 1870 the retirement of Bismarck to Varzin, the order to Baron Werther to leave Paris, the sending of the King to Ems. Thither the French ambassador, refused information elsewhere, was compelled to follow him, to be lured into a false position and that false position touched in the despatches of Abeken in such a way as to exasperate French sensibilities. Surely a most elaborate contrivance with which to procure the bloody cement required for fastening the parts of a dismembered nation. But how did it happen that Bismarck set it in operation at a particular time unless he foresaw that the Spanish crisis would become acute at the same moment? And if he foresaw, what superhuman power had come to his aid? And how came it that a workman so practical, so unvisionary, staked everything, his country's fortune and his own, upon the working of a scheme so intricate and so loosely put together that it might break down at any moment? These obstacles to the acceptance of his view M. Andler does nothing to clear away.

Select Charters and Other Documents Illustrative of American History, 1606-1775. Edited with Notes by WILLIAM MACDONALD, Professor of History and Political Science in Bowdoin College. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1899. Pp. ix, 401.)

IN 1898 Professor MacDonald published a volume of *Select Documents of United States History*, beginning with the Declaration of Independence and closing with the Constitution of the Confederate States, 1861. The present volume is constructed upon the same general plan; it begins with the Charter of Virginia, 1606, and ends with the Act prohibiting Trade, December, 1775. The two volumes together cover the entire period of our colonial and national history to the Civil War. In the present volume are eighty documents in all. They are arranged in strict chronological order. The first forty-five articles end with the Treaty of Ryswick, 1697. In this list a very large proportion of the documents are charters. More than two-thirds of them may be found in Poore's *Charters and Constitutions*. Besides the colonial charters there are various other documents, such as the Charter of Privileges to Patroons in the Dutch settlement of New York, 1629, the Fundamental Articles of New Haven, the Maryland Toleration Act, and the various Navigation Acts. Mr. MacDonald calls attention in his preface to the scarcity of historical materials for the first half of the eighteenth century. From 1701 to 1762 he finds only seven documents suited to his purpose; beginning with 1762 and extending to the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, nearly all of the papers selected have reference to the controversy between England and her colonies. The entire space of the book is occupied with the text of the docu-

ments, save about a half-page of notes and bibliographical references introducing each one. There are very few footnotes. The notes contain a brief and clear statement of the nature of the document and the circumstances under which it was given. In a very large proportion of the papers there are considerable omissions. In some instances the character of the omission is indicated in brackets. The second charter of Virginia, 1609, contains several pages of names of citizens of the various classes and noblemen who constitute the corporators; in the place of these names there is a footnote indicating the numbers of the various classes. In such a case as this the note is much more convenient and expressive than would be the names of the persons, and there certainly is a great economy of space. But in the same charter there is an omission of a portion of the document which explicitly requires the government in Virginia organized under the first charter to surrender its authority into the hands of the governor provided for in the second charter, and there is nothing whatever to indicate the character of this omission. One may learn from the context that the new government was to be organized under the authority of the governor, but the omitted part, it would seem, is very closely related to the characteristic features of the charter. A very large portion of the omissions, however, are unimportant in themselves. Comparing this volume with the earlier volume, it presents much more the air of completeness. It contains more nearly all the documents which the ordinary reader would expect to find. The two volumes are of especial use to readers deprived of library accommodations. They are convenient however for any reader, because the material is placed in form for easy reference.

JESSE MACY.

The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America. By JOHN FISKE. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1899. Pp. xvi, 294; xvi, 400.)

THE general character of this work is what might have been expected by those who know Mr. Fiske's previous writings on American history. It is one of those books which occupy a position intermediate between the popular manual and the full history with all its critical appliances and scholarly methods.

Such a work is exposed to special temptations and dangers. The writer has to avoid the brevity and dryness of a manual without feeling to the full the restraints and obligations of the serious historian. With difficulty can he rid himself of the poorer literary conventions of his day; his style is apt to resemble that of the journalist. It cannot be said that Mr. Fiske has triumphed over these difficulties. His style lacks the emphasis which comes of self-restraint. He is at his worst, as is the wont of such writers, when he aims at being sportive or picturesque. His rhetoric is too often of the cheap and well-worn finery of the penny-a-liner. Underhill, the disreputable soldier of fortune who played a conspicuous part in New England history and strove so strangely and so unsuccessfully